





## DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

We repeat elsewhere the platform adopted by the Democratic State Convention, at Frankfort on the 1st inst. It is, we suppose, impossible in the nature of things that a platform of principles can be other than somewhat rapid and proxy reading. The same venerable sentiments are to be announced for the hundredth time, the same well known polysyllabic formulas are always brought into requisition, and the effect is sometimes very depressing indeed. And yet they must be accepted, with a great many other tiresome formalities in the world, as necessary nuisances. Party organizations, upon which are dependent party vitality and party success, require the formal announcement, at suitable times, of the distinctive tenets upon which it bases its appeal to popular favor and "puts itself upon the country." This manifesto of our late convention is certainly not lacking in the characteristic prominence, to which we refer; yet, on the whole, it may be said to be a sound and dignified presentation of Democratic policy, setting forth clearly enough, though not as sharply nor as vigorously as desirable, the two fundamental and irreconcilable differences between us and our Republican brethren.

One of these is upon the question of the sovereignty of the States in local matters, a question on which parties have been divided since the formation of the Republic, and which is by long odds the gravest yet remaining to be settled. It is the fashion in some quarters, it is true, to assume that this was authoritatively and finally determined by the late war. But there are many other attributes of sovereignty conceded to the States by the constitution, more valuable, more unquestionable than the one of secession, which we admit was settled with a vengeance. That and the execution of the incidents merely, of slavery were disposed of by the verdict of the war. But the States are still, if not in point of fact, in theory, at least, and in the written letter of the law, sovereigns. Whether they shall remain so, whether the centrifugal and centripetal forces can be so adjusted that the States and General Government, planets wheeling in regular orbits around a central sun, can preserve the relation indicated in the constitution and intended by our fathers, is an organic question confronting us as stubbornly now as in the thedays of Jefferson, and it will remain to confront us until the barriers of federal encroachment are either made insurmountable, or are utterly broken down and the States fused into one central power, a Republic possibly in name but an Empire in spirit and in fact. Against this latter consummation our platform most earnestly protests.

The remaining *casus belli* between the parties, and which with kindred questions of a financial nature, will furnish the remaining issues of party warfare in the near future, (for only idiosyncrasy will deny that the negro and his status are disposed of) is the question of "protection." Protection, called so with a nice sense of humor, is that policy, at present in full operation, which practically prohibits our purchasing foreign goods and wares, and forces us to buy them, at a hundred per cent. or so advance, from our thrifty Yankee neighbors. In other and plainer words it robs every farmer, mechanic, and professional man in the country every day of their lives, and turns over the proceeds to the capitalist and manufacturer. Against this inequity, also, the party is committed with equal emphasis.

Then, descending from National to State politics, the platform earnestly urges the encouragement of foreign immigration "to the rich fields of enterprise in our State,"—a most wise and judicious and timely suggestion, gentlemen of the convention, coming as it does, immediately after the adjournment of the legislature, a fitting reprimand of the clamorous and pig-headed obstinacy which defeated in that body any measure looking to this most desirable end.

Then comes the customary flourish, peculiar to no party, about extravagance, corruption, etc., etc. This, we fear, does not usually mean much, and accomplishes less. Official corruption grows out of personal dishonesty, and personal honor and honesty are not very generally learned from party platforms.

On the whole, however, as we said, it is a very respectable document, rather tough to read, but very good to be filed away.

## CIRCUIT COURT.

His honor, Judge Fox, adjourned court last Saturday at noon, after a two weeks' eventful, and as far as the lawyers were concerned, uneventful term. Both the Commonwealth and law docket were usually devoid of exciting or important cases. Nearly all of the term was consumed in disposing of the criminal cases, which, of course and properly, have precedence on the docket. The result was, as at the October term of last year, the law docket was barely reached, and the great majority of this class of cases went over to the next term. This we regard as a passing evil, requiring attention and a remedy at the hands of our next Legislature. It is certainly a great hardship on litigants to be compelled to dance attendance at court with all their witnesses, day after day, and turn away term, before they can have their cases heard and decided. We should either have a separate criminal court, for which nothing more would be necessary than another judge, whose salary would be more than saved to the State in fees, or the judicial district should be made smaller and the terms

in each county made longer. As it is, a case in which there is an issue has but a slim chance of being reached and disposed of under a year or eighteen months after suit is brought. We respectfully call the attention of all Legislative aspirants to this matter.

Only one case of general interest was reached and tried this term, that of Alma Miller, by her next friend, Caldwell Campbell, Jr., vs. W. K. Denny. The suit was for slander, damages laid at \$20,000, and both parties of the highest respectability of Madison county. Denny, laboring under an unfortunate but natural mistake, published, near the home of both parties, some very slanderous charges against the chastity of Alma Miller, who is an interesting and beautiful child of fourteen. The mistake was discovered in a day or two, and correction promptly made by the defendant. Not a shadow of suspicion has since rested upon the fair fame of the lady where the facts are known. But her guardian believing that slander, especially where a woman's reputation is concerned, far outweighs its correction, instituted this suit, whether judiciously or not it is not for us to say. The result was, after a protracted trial in which much feeling was evinced by the friends of both parties, a verdict for the plaintiff of three thousand dollars.

## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

On our fourth page will be found a full text of the Democratic platform as adopted by the Convention which convened at Frankfort, May 1st, 1878. The Central Committee is located at Frankfort, composed of Hon. Geo. W. Cradock, chairman, W. P. D. Bush, D. Howard Smith, S. I. Major, J. Stoddard Johnson, L. Tobin and J. W. South.

An advisory or executive committee were added, composed of one gentleman from each Congressional District as follows: 1st District, H. S. Tyler; 2nd District, W. F. Gregory; 3rd District, J. C. Underwood; 4th District, A. M. Adair; 5th District, Basil W. Duke; 6th District, M. T. Bryant; 7th District, R. H. Gayle; 8th District, J. W. Alcorn; 9th District, Robert W. Riddle; 10th District, K. F. Prichard.

The powers and duties of the Central Committee, are the advisory or executive or as associate members thereof, are laid down in the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That the permanent organization of the Democratic party of Kentucky shall be as follows:

The Central Committee, to be located at Frankfort, shall consist of seven members, and shall have charge of the general organization and routine business of the party; but, in addition to said committee, there shall be an executive committee of one from each Congressional District, who shall be called together by the Central Committee, and act in conjunction with the same upon all questions relating to the calling of State conventions, and to matters affecting the general interests or policy of the party at large. And the members of said executive committee, when so called together, shall have power to call their rules by proxy, by letter, or by telegram. Provided that, in all meetings of the executive committee, the central committee shall only be entitled to one vote.

The Lincoln county Executive Committee is composed of the following gentlemen: W. G. Welch, chairman, Wm. Gooch, Wm. O. Hainford, Jas. Cook, Geo. Young, Geo. W. Alford, Thomas Richards, J. S. Orsley.

Hon. James W. Tate was nominated as candidate for State Treasurer by acclamation.

## SHOCKING, IF TRUE.

## The Mysterious Letter Which an

Editor:

Please put this note in your paper. It is concerning the attempt to murder one Miss Francis O. Smith, daughter of Jno. Smith, now a resident of Greenup county, Kentucky. Her father lives on Tygart creek, about eleven miles from Portsmouth, near Bennett's mill, she being the only child remaining at home.

Saturday morning on the 19th of April, her parents found her in her bed. She had been chloroformed and tied hands and feet with the sheet and wound up in her bed clothes. A pillow was laid on her face and an iron wedge laid on the pillow, and it was with some difficulty that she was brought to her senses. She said she had no knowledge of what had happened during the night, but said she had been fully satisfied that some one had been at her window a few nights before, but she could not convince her parents of the fact. All the knowledge of the cause of this outrage is what we can gather from a writing left in her window by the villain, which reads as follows:

"If you want save yer self yer better have these wages. I'm hired to do job and cum lots of miles, ben here at yer window four times and in yer room wum but yer looked like an angel and I can't do it but sum one will, for the villians have found out yer whereabouts and will kill yer for your fortune what is left yer a feller that yer befriended when he was on the cars sick, he died and left all he had to yer if yer was alive on the first of June, if yer was dead it was to go to two other fellers, and if yer don't give them the slip there certain to kill yer before that time. Farewell."

The girl says she remembers once giving a sick man a drink of water when she was on the cars; he was a stranger to her; he asked her name and where she lived. The girl will be kept out of reach of danger.

WILLIAM JETT, aged eighty, was married in the Harrison House at Cincinnati the other day to Miss Annie Perlin, aged seventy-two.

## AN AWFUL ACCIDENT.

The Iron Bridge, at Dixon Illinois, Falls Into Rock River With Three Hundred People.

Seventy-Five Persons Killed and Thirty-Two Wounded.

On Sunday evening last, the iron bridge at Dixon, Illinois, was crowded with men and women and children, to witness a baptism, when it fell with a terrible crash, precipitating its living freight into the water beneath. The scene which ensued was indescribably terrible, as the struggling victims endeavored to free themselves from the ruins of the bridge and from each other; the large crowds of people on the banks rushing wildly to and fro, unable to render assistance. Mothers came to the river bank anxiously inquiring for children; fathers, for wives and children, and all was horror and excitement. A few of the vast crowd on the shore regained their self-possession and speedily brought ropes, planks and boats into requisition, and the work of rescuing the living and recovering of the dead commenced. A few who were near the end of the bridge escaped without assistance, while others were able to free themselves from the wreck and reach the shore safely. Many are supposed to be placed to the bottom of the river by the network of the bridge. The latest information received from the scene of the catastrophe is that the efforts to raise the fallen bridge, in order to release the bodies supposed to be buried beneath the wreck were unsuccessful. The number killed and wounded is estimated at about one hundred and fifty.

## Public Speaking.

Colonel C. E. Bowman and Hon. T. W. Varnon, Democratic candidates for Senator of the Eighteenth Senatorial District, composed of the counties of Casey, Garrard, Boyle and Lincoln, will address the citizens of Casey county, at the following times and places: Middleburg, Monday, May 12; Jenkins, Tuesday, May 13; Williams Store, Wednesday, May 14; Casey's Creek, Thursday, May 15; Powell's Store, Friday, May 16; Liberty, Saturday, May 17. Speaking to commence at 2 o'clock, P. M., each day.

## A ROMANCE.

## CHAPTER FIRST.

On last Saturday eve, as the sun slowly wheeled his broad disc to the West, and the shadows began to lengthen over the fields just bursting into living verdure under the divine alchemy of May, a single horseman might have been seen laze laze pursuing his solitary course along the Somerset road. There was much in the appearance of this traveler to excite deep and solemn reflection. In the timorous it would perhaps have deepened into apprehension. The charger he bestrode was lean—very lean—but strong, sagacious and servicable. The rider was a man with open and ingenuous, but withal, determined countenance; apparently about twenty-nine years and six months of age. He wore a tall and wondrously glossy silk hat. On his heels were fastened two immense Texas spurs, with bells attached which jingled musically when, as occasionally required, he admonished the ribs of his uddle animal. In his belt he carried a pair of horse pistols of antique pattern. From his saddle-bags, which had evidently seen much service, protruded on the one side Blackstone's Commentaries, and on the other Webster's Unabridged. Resting on the pommel of his saddle, and steadied by his disengaged hand, was a two-gallon jug, which gave out to the air an insidious, yet pleasing odor.

This accoutred solitary horseman rode steadily onward, now speaking words of encouragement to his gallant horse, such as "oats, old fellow, oats," now applying his nostrils to the stopper in the jug, and now beguiling the toll of his journey by a loud and melodious whistle, in the which art he seemed no mean proficient.

The gentle reader will have failed to guess, by this time, that this is our hero. Yes it is, indeed, none other, inspired with the ardor of early manhood he rides forth in search of adventure and contingent fees. Alas! Alas! but we must not anticipate.

On, on he rides, through the still lengthening shadows, to the far distant country of the Christian Statesman—to the land of Nimrod Buster.

(To be Continued.)

## Emigration to Kentucky.

There has been a belief widespread throughout the North, that immigrants are not, and are not likely to be, welcome south of the Ohio. The emphatic and cordial declaration of the Kentucky Democratic State Convention should bury such suspicions. If similar declarations had been made earlier and oftener, and by other States, it might have tended to a better understanding between the States that need immigration and the States that can send emigrants. Let enterprise freely flow through the States whose industries have been paralyzed—that is their salvation. It is men of capital and energy, not adventurers, that the South is willing and waiting to receive.

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